<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Please cancel Claims 4, 13, 21, 30, 38, and 47, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15-18, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, 32-35, 37, 39-41, 43, 44, 46, and 49-51 as follows (a complete listing of all the claims appears below):

Claim 1 (currently amended): An image managing apparatus for managing retrievable images, comprising:

input means for inputting relevant information concerning ~~one or more~~ <u>a</u> <u>plurality of</u> objects in ~~an~~ <u>a single</u> image, the relevant information including an appearance quality of each of the ~~one or more~~ <u>plurality of</u> objects in the <u>single</u> image <u>and a word describing an</u> <u>appearance relationship between two or more objects in the single image</u>; and

memory means for storing the relevant information inputted by said input means in association with each of the ~~one or more~~ <u>plurality of</u> objects ~~of~~ <u>in</u> the <u>single</u> image, respectively.

Claim 2 (original): An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An image managing apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in

a̶n̶ the single image.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (previously amended): An image managing apparatus according to

claim 2, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An image managing apparatus according to

claim 1, wherein said input means includes position designating means for designating a position

of an object in the single image, and display means for displaying an input window used to input

the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An image managing apparatus according to

claim 6, wherein the position designating means designates positions of two mutually-related

objects in the single image.

Claim 8 (previously amended): An image managing apparatus according to

claim 1, further comprising retrieval requirement input means for inputting requirements for

retrieval, and image retrieving means for retrieving images that meet the requirements for

retrieval inputted by said retrieval requirement input means.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means inputs supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An image retrieving apparatus for retrieving images, comprising:

memory means for storing ~~one or more~~ identification information concerning a plurality of objects contained in ~~an~~ a single image in association with relevant information concerning the ~~one or more~~ plurality of objects, the relevant information including an appearance quality of each of the ~~one or more~~ plurality of objects contained in the single image and a word describing an appearance relationship between two or more objects in the single image;

retrieval requirement input means for inputting requirements for retrieval; and

retrieving means for retrieving an image that meets the requirements for retrieval inputted by said retrieval requirement input means, based on the relevant information stored in said memory means.

Claim 11 (original): An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

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Claim 12 (currently amended): An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in ~~an~~ the single image.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously amended) An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the qualifier is comprise of a plurality of words.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a position designating means for designating a position of an object of interest in the single image, and display means for displaying an input window used to input the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said position designating means designates positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image.

Claim 17 (currently amended): An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said input means inputs supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category

information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An image managing method for managing retrievable images, comprising:

an input step of inputting relevant information concerning ~~one or more~~ a plurality of objects in ~~an~~ a single image, the relevant information including an appearance quality of each of the ~~one or more~~ plurality of objects in the single image and a word describing an appearance relationship between two or more objects in the single image; and

a storage step of storing the relevant information inputted in said input step in association with each of the ~~one or more~~ plurality of objects ~~of~~ in the single image, respectively.

Claim 19 (original): An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in ~~an~~ the single image.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously amended): An image managing method according to claim 19, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

Claim 23 (currently amended): An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein said input step includes a position designation step of designating a position of an object in the single image , and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

Claim 24 (currently amended): An image managing method according to claim 23, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

Claim 25 (previously amended): An image managing method according to claim 18, further comprising a retrieval requirement input step of inputting requirements for retrieval, and an image retrieval step of retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval inputted in said retrieval requirement input step.

Claim 26 (currently amended): An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein, in said input step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof,

weather information thereof, and event information thereof is inputted.

Claim 27 (currently amended): An image retrieving method for retrieving images, comprising:

a storage step of storing ~~one or more~~ identification information concerning a plurality of objects contained in ~~an~~ a single image in association with relevant information concerning the ~~one or more~~ plurality of objects, the relevant information including an appearance quality of each of the ~~one or more~~ plurality of objects contained in the single image and a word describing an appearance relationship between two or more objects in the single image;

a retrieval requirement input step of inputting requirements for retrieval; and

a retrieval step of retrieving an image that meets the requirements for retrieval inputted in said retrieval requirement input step, based on the stored relevant information.

Claim 28 (original): An image managing method according to claim 27, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

Claim 29 (currently amended): An image managing method according to claim 27, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in ~~an~~ the single image.

Claim 30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (previously amended): An image managing method according to claim 28, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

Claim 32 (currently amended): An image managing method according to claim 27, further comprising a position designation step of designating a position of an object of interest in the single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

Claim 33 (currently amended): An image managing method according to claim 32, wherein, in said position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

Claim 34 (currently amended): An image managing method according to claim 27, wherein, in said storage step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is stored.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A storage medium in which is stored a

program for implementing an image managing method for managing retrievable stored images, the method comprising:

an input step of inputting relevant information concerning ~~one or more~~ a plurality of objects in ~~an~~ a single image, the relevant information including an appearance quality of each of the ~~one or more~~ plurality of objects in the single image and a word describing an appearance relationship between two or more objects in the single image; and

a storage step of storing the relevant information inputted in ~~the~~ said input step in association with each of the ~~one or more~~ plurality of objects of the single image, respectively.

Claim 36 (original): A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in ~~an~~ the single image.

Claim 38 (canceled)

Claim 39 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 36, wherein the ~~qalifier~~ qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein ~~the~~ said input step includes a position designation step of designating a position of an object in the single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

Claim 41 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 40, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

Claim 42 (previously amended): A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the method further comprises a retrieval requirement input step of inputting requirements for retrieval, and an image retrieval step of retrieving images that meet the requirements for retrieval inputted in the retrieval requirement input step.

Claim 43 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein, in ~~the~~ said input step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is inputted.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A storage medium in which is stored a

program for implementing an image retrieving method for retrieving stored images, the method comprising:

a storage step of storing ~~one or more~~ <u>identification information concerning a plurality of</u> objects contained in ~~an~~ <u>a single</u> image in association with relevant information concerning the ~~one or more~~ <u>plurality of</u> objects, the relevant information including an appearance quality of each of the ~~one or more~~ <u>plurality of</u> objects contained in the <u>single</u> image <u>and a word describing an appearance relationship between two or more objects in the single image</u>;

a retrieval requirement input step of inputting requirements for retrieval; and

a retrieval step of retrieving an image that meets the requirements for retrieval inputted in the retrieval requirement input step, based on the stored relevant information.

Claim 45 (original): A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the relevant information includes at least one of a general name of an object, a qualifier therefor, a proper noun thereof, and a position thereof.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the relevant information includes information expressing a state of an object in ~~an~~ <u>the</u> <u>single</u> image.

Claim 47 (canceled)

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Claim 48 (previously amended): A storage medium according to claim 45, wherein the qualifier is comprised of a plurality of words.

Claim 49 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the method further comprises a position designation step of designating a position of an object of interest in the single image, and a display step of displaying an input window used to input the relevant information concerning the object at the designated position.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A storage medium according to claim 49, wherein, in the position designation step, positions of two mutually-related objects in the single image are designated.

Claim 51 (currently amended) A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein, in the said storage step, supplementary information including at least one of imaging-related information of the single image, special object information thereof, category information thereof, impression information thereof, time information thereof, place information thereof, weather information thereof, and event information thereof is stored.

Claim 52 (previously added): An image managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

Claim 53 (previously added): An image retrieving apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

Claim 54 (previously added): An image managing method according to claim 18, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

Claim 55 (previously added): An image retrieving method according to claim 27, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

Claim 56 (previously added): A storage medium according to claim 35, wherein the relevant information is textual information.

Claim 57 (previously added): A storage medium according to claim 44, wherein the relevant information is textual information.